

Remarks/Arguments:

This preliminary amendment is filed to present an application in proper US format and to remove multiple dependencies.

The recommended subheadings have been inserted at the proper locations in the text. Various typographical errors have been corrected and some language has been amended to improve grammar. All of the changes are properly supported in the original application. No new matter has been added.

The application was initially filed in German with the signed declaration. Applicants herewith submit a certified English translation in accordance with Rule 1.52(d)(1).

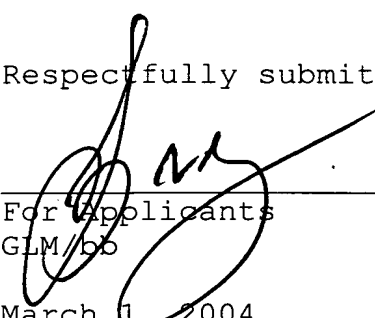
The fee for one (1) additional independent claim in excess of three (3) and for eight (8) additional claims in excess of twenty (20) in the amount of \$230.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 are enclosed herewith.

An early action on the merits of the application is solicited.

Appl. No. 10/701,836
Prel. Amdt. dated March 1, 2004

Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to
Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and
Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

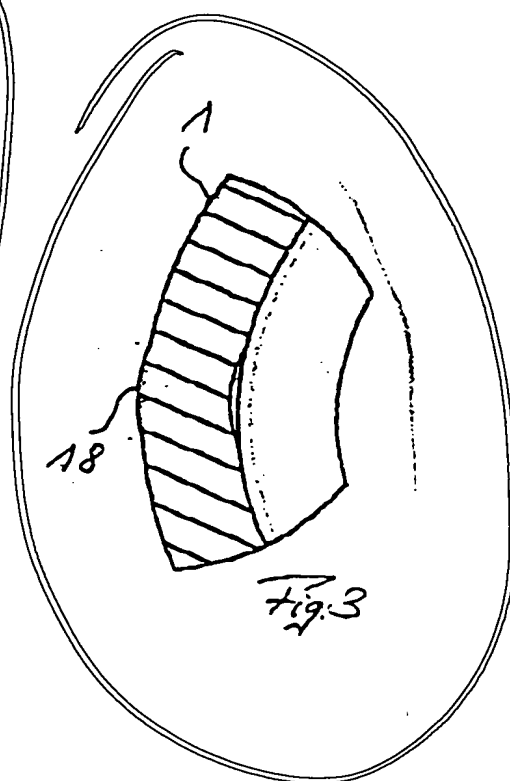
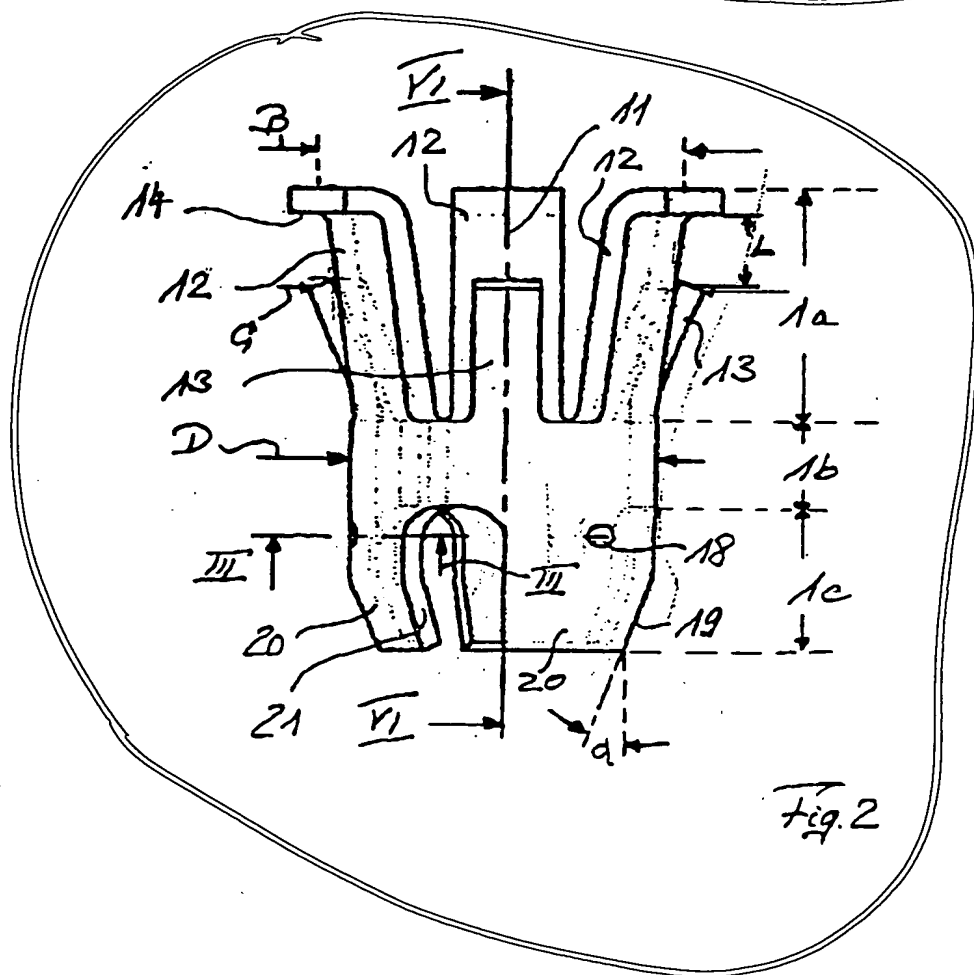
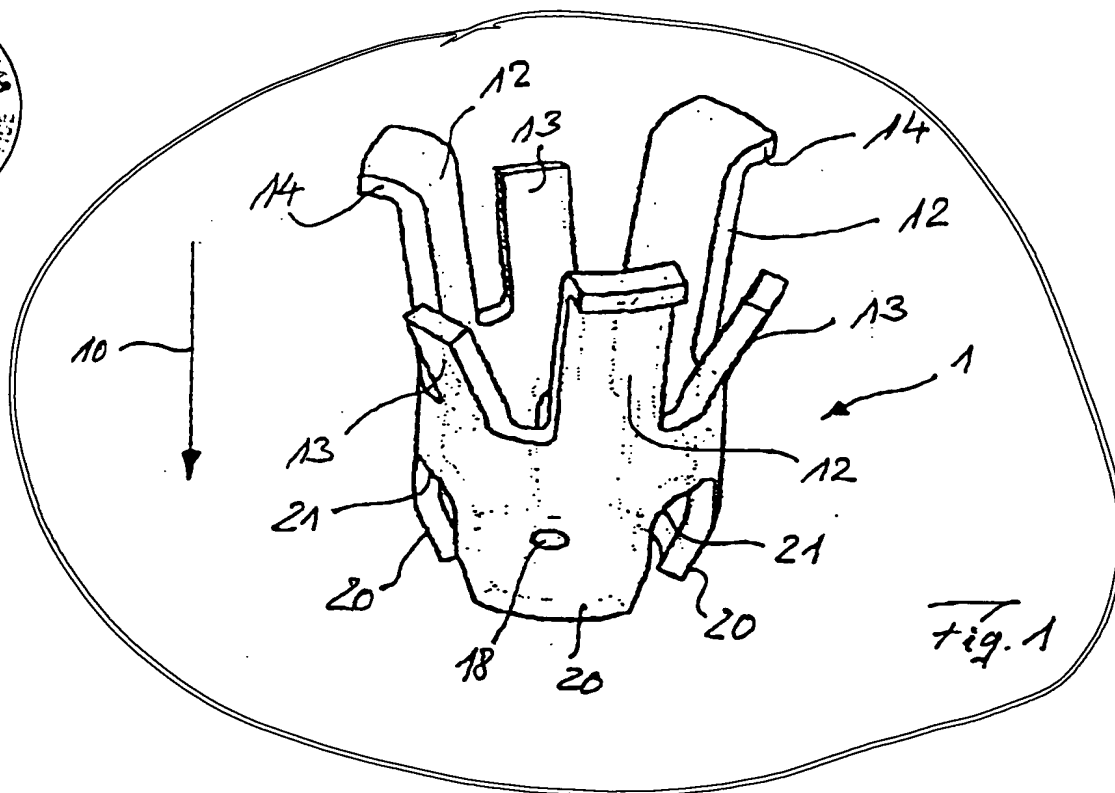


For Applicants
GLM/bb

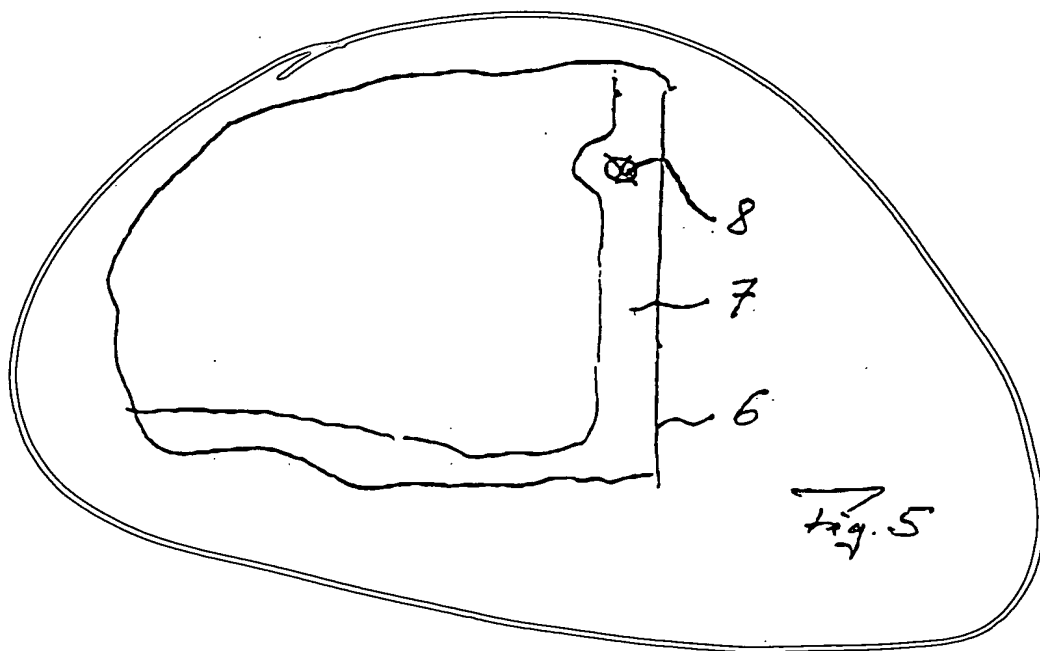
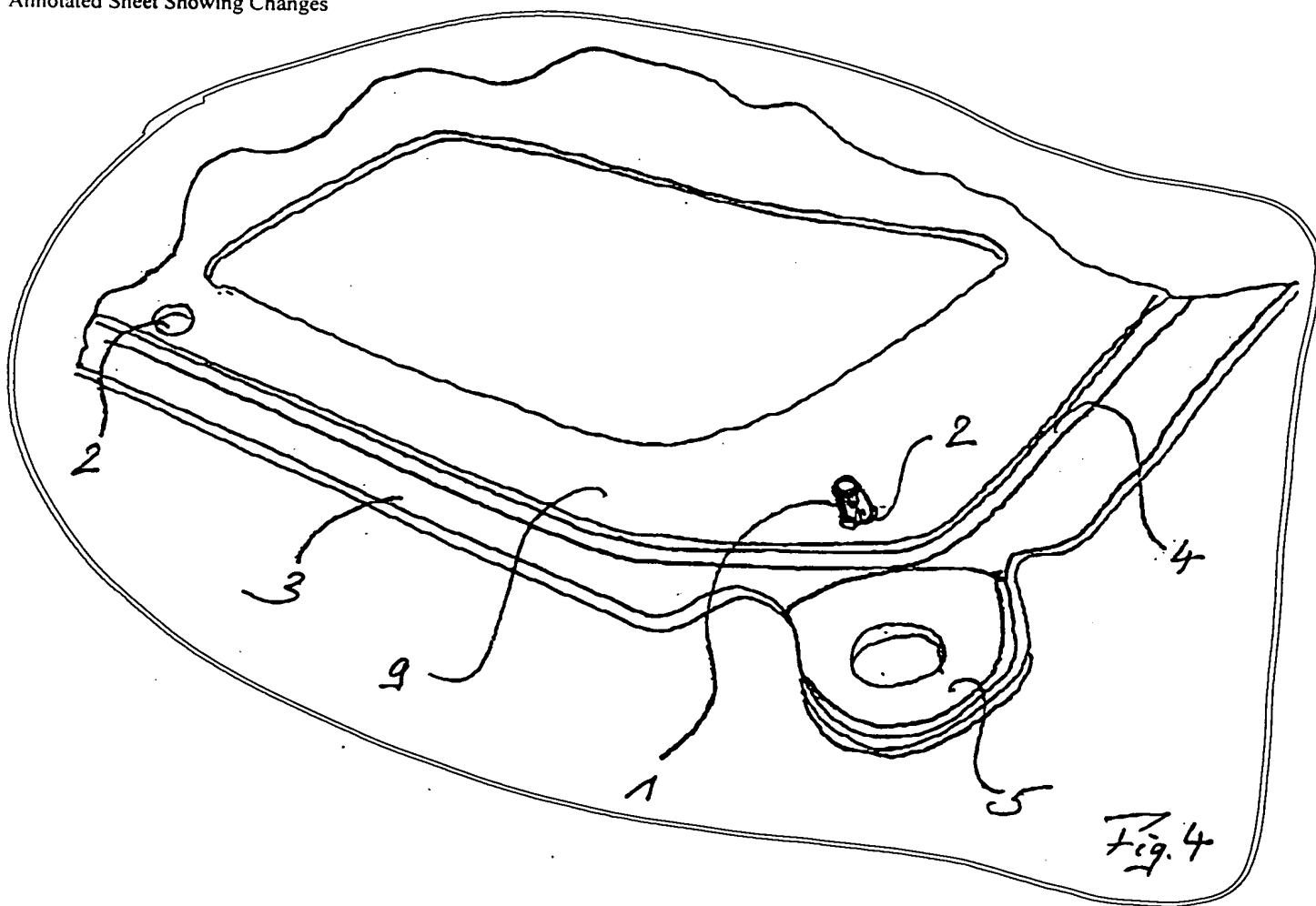
Gregory L. Mayback
Reg. No. 40,719

March 1, 2004
Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
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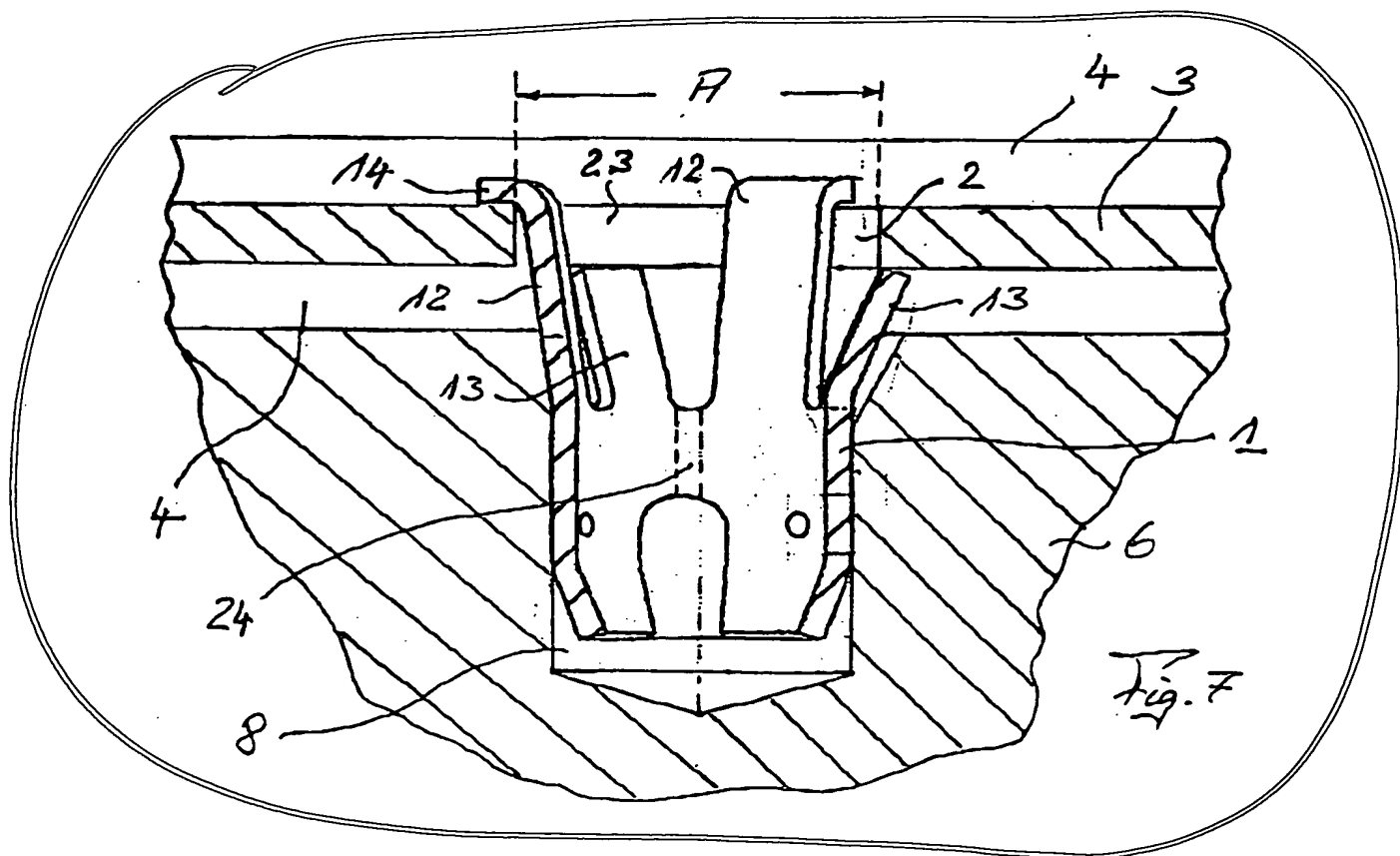
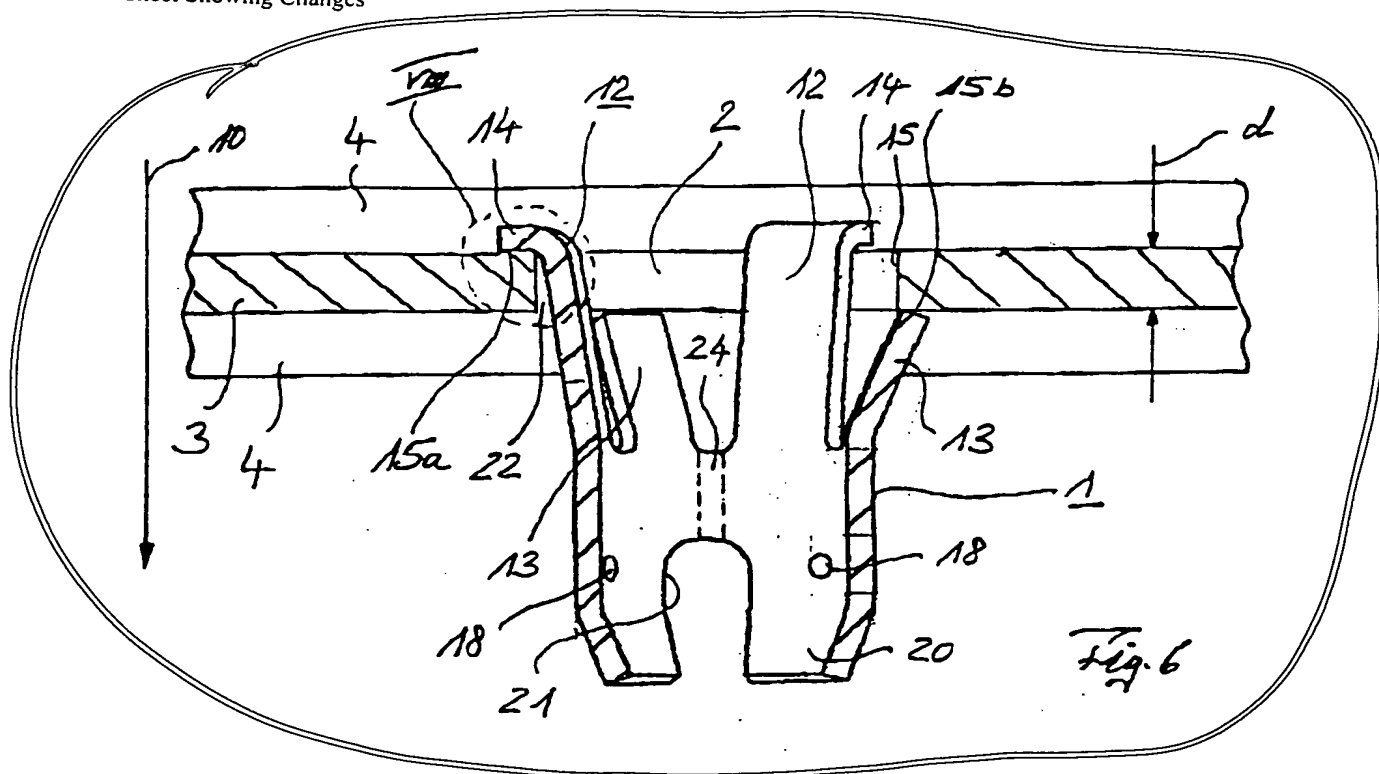
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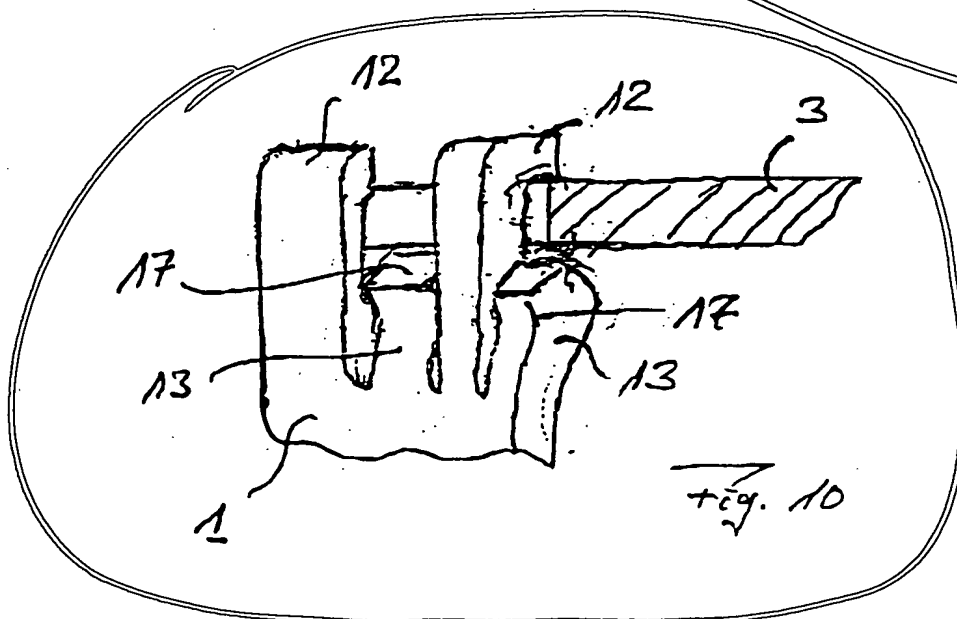
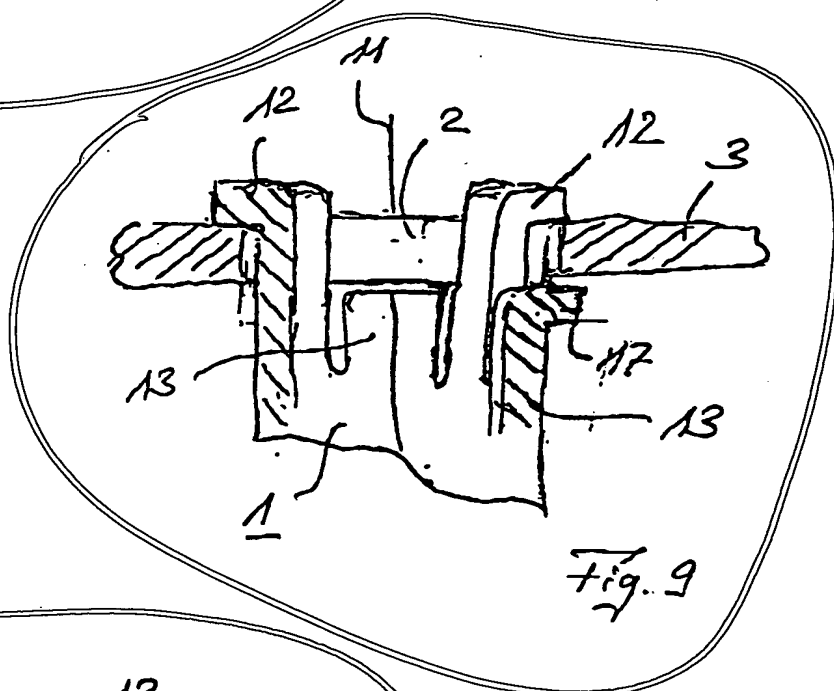
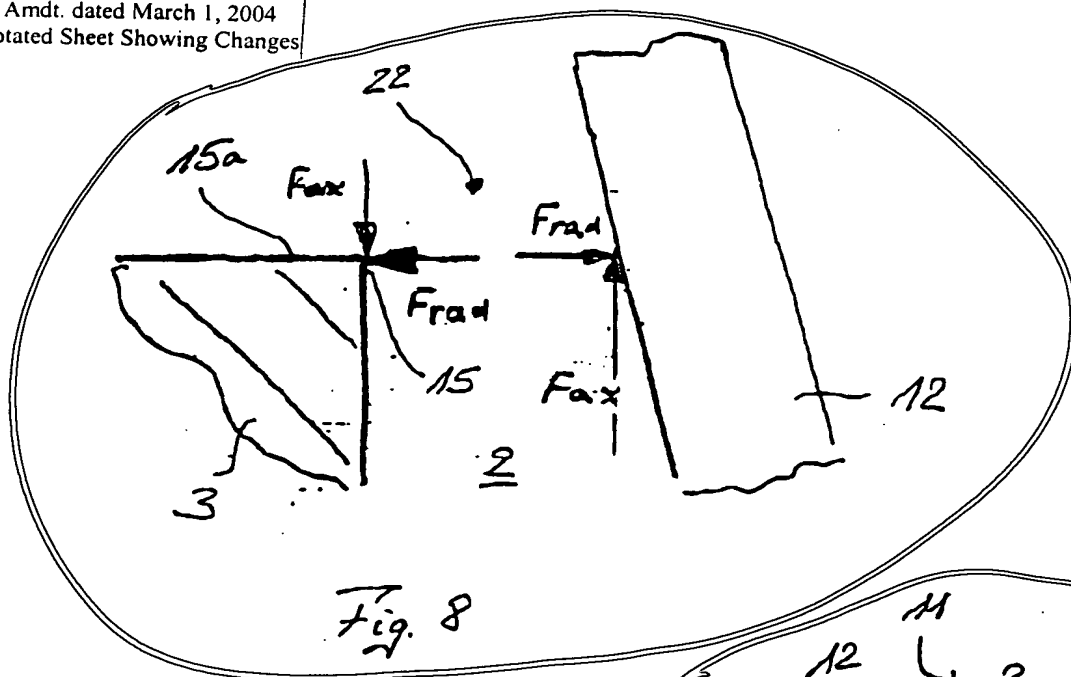


215



3/5





5/5

